Schemes for Handloom Weavers

68. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for handloom weavers in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the loomlcss weavers are proposed to be provided with assistance in a phased programme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The major new schemes formulated during VIII Five Year Plan period covering weavers in the rural areas as well as loomless weavers, inter alia include Group Insurance Scheme; Health Package Scheme; Margin Money for Destitute Weavers Scheme; Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units Scheme; National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme; Marketing support through District level fairs & Exhibition, Design support through freelance designers and coverage of weavers under the ongoing programmes of Ministry of Rural Development.

Villages Without Postal Facilities in Karnataka

69. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are villages in Karnataka which do not have any postal facilities; if so, the number thereof as on the 30th June, 1996; and

(b) by when such facilities would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) there are 18828 villages in Karnataka which do not have a post office. However, mails are delivered daily in all the villages in Karnataka.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under annual plan scheme subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of targets and resources. Hence no time frame can be given to provide post office facilities in all the villages in Karnataka.

Completion of Hydel Component of Upper Indravati Multi-Purposc Project

70. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the hydel component of the upper Indravati multi-purpose project would be completed; and

(b) what is the total estimate of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The Upper Indravati multi-purpose project is expected to be completed by 1999-2000. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1116.30 crores.

Quota System for Export of Cloth

71. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether quota system in the export of cloth has been abolished under the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, what action plan is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the Quota system for the export of textile and clothing products, including the export of cloth, has not been abolished under the World Trade Organisation.

Loans to Agricultural Sector

72. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROG RAMME IMPLEMENTATION be

pleased to state the proposed allocation of loans to agricultural sector in the country, particularly to Punjab, during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): The projections for ground level credit disbursement for agriculture and allied activities (both production and investment credit) including non-farm sector for the year 1996-97 for All India and Punjab are Rs. 35596.27 crores and Rs. 2551.25 crores, respectively. These projections of the banks also include Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

Lok Sabha Elections in J&K

73. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference that the recent Lok Sabha elections in the State have been neither free nor fair;

(b) whether Government have also taken cognisance of the Chief Election Commissioner's comment that he could neither vouchsafe for nor against the allegation of exercise of force or threat of force by army personnel so as to cajole voters in the valley to cast their ballots; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for the proposed forthcoming polls for the State Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir so as to obviate the scope for lodging such allegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of press report on the points raised in parts (a) and (b) of the question. Government has consistently pointed out that allegations with regard to elections in J&K are baseless, and that the elections were free and fair, despite a sustained campaign of threats and intimidation against all participants in the electoral process by the terrorist and seccssionist elements. The Government will take all possible steps to ensure that elections to the State Assembly can also be totally free and fair and peaceful.

Violation of Human Rights by Police

74. SHRI 0. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, while addressing Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Lions Club International had stated that the biggest culprit in violation of the Human Rights is the Police as reported in the Dainik Jagaran of 7th May, 1996;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what action Government propose to take to check violation of Human Rights by the Police;

(d) the number and details of cases of such violations that have come to light in Delhi and other States and Union Territories during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by Government in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Clearance to Hyderabad Metro Combined Cycle Gas Power Project

75. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hyderabad Metro 650 MW combined cycle gas power project was earmarked by the Andhra Pradesh Government to NTPC and the feasibility report was submitted by the NTPC to the Central Electricity Authority in July, 1995;